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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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07/838,511 02/19/92 HUNTER

A ETH-782

EXAMINER
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NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003

15N1

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1504

DATE MAILED: 03/18/93

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on Dec. 2, 1992 ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), — days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1 - 24 are pending in the application.
Of the above, claims 1 - 20 are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.
4. ☒ Claims 21 - 24 are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable. ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).
10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner. ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____, has been ☐ approved. ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit 1504

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaplan et al.

Kaplan et al. discloses a connective tissue prosthesis comprising a braided sheath yarn component and a core yarn component. The braided sheath comprises braided filaments or braided filament bundles (column 9, lines 4-12). A sheath component containing filaments of different chemical compositions is specifically disclosed (column 9, lines 12-16). Claim 21 is therefore anticipated by Kaplan et al.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as

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prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Doddi et al. taken with Kaplan et al.

Doddi et al. disclose a surgical suture comprising filaments of two different polymers in a braided configuration (column 9, lines 47-56). Suitable biocompatible, non absorbable filaments include PET and PTFE (column 9, lines 51-53).

Kaplan et al. discloses a ligament prosthesis comprising a core component and a braided sheath component. The core component is "made up of one or more biocompatible, essentially non-bioabsorbable..." filaments (column 9, lines 1-3). The sheath yarn component may be fabricated from one or more non-bioabsorbable fibers (column 9, lines 25-28). It would have been obvious to form the sheath component of the device of Kaplan et al. from PTFE and PET. PTFE is known to impart improved knot run down properties to sutures (see Block U.S. Pat. No. 3,527,650). PET is noted for its low cost and high strength. The core yarn component must be non-bioabsorbable (column 4, lines 45-46). Since PET is non-bioabsorbable, biocompatible and has the desirable properties noted above, its use as the core component would have been obvious. Claims 21 and 22 are therefore unpatentable over Doddi et al. taken

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with Kaplan et al.

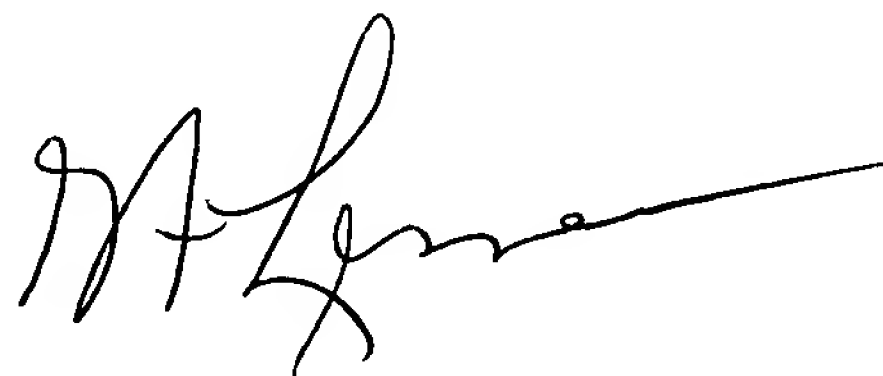
Kaplan et al. fail to disclose the prosthesis of their invention connected to a needle. Prosthesis are, however, implanted in the body using a needle. Claims 23 and 24 are therefore unpatentable over Doddi et al. taken with Kaplan et al.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-24 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Chris Raimund at telephone number (703) 308-2374.



C. Raimund:pdw
February 25, 1993



GEORGE F. LESMES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 150